



Rambling Willie

# Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2021

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

### Board of Directors

- Chaplain Lee Alphen  
Racetrack Ministry
- Amy Bondon, President
- Greg Gehman, Vice President  
Knight's Landing Stable
- Roger Huston  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's  
Association and Little Brown Jug
- Lori Romanetti  
Moshannon Stables

For newsletter questions or ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
603-898-1927  
603-401-7271 (cell)

### Wanted

**Praise Reports and Articles**  
Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
Or  
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



Finish Line—The Race of Life

## The Most Important Little Brown Jug

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Drivers head to the gate, hoping to set a new record and have their name inscribed on the Little Brown Jug (it is actually quite large) housed in the Log Cabin at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. Since 1946 the best three-year-old pacers compete each year over the lightning-fast half-mile track in Delaware, Ohio.



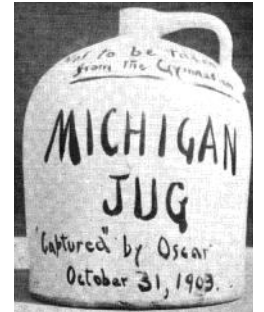
Rich Thorstenson with the Little Brown Jug in the Delaware Log Cabin

There is another Little Brown Jug in the world of sports. When The University of Michigan's Wolverines arrived in Minnesota to play Minnesota's Golden Gophers in 1903, Michigan Coach Fielding Yost sent a student manager for a jug of water. With two minutes left of brutal play, the Gophers crossed the goal line to score a touchdown. Gophers fans rushed the field, forcing referees to call the game a tie at 6 to 6.

Gophers equipment manager Oscar Munson later found the jug. He and Minnesota athletic director L.J. Cooke memorialized the Jug as seen in the picture to the right. In 1909, with the Jug as a prize, the two exceptional teams took the field again, kicking off the rematch. The Wolverines prevailed in the contest, winning back their Jug,

and the tradition of The Little Brown Jug became part of college football.

King Saul was searching for David to kill him. While Saul was asleep in camp surrounded by his soldiers, David snuck in and took the king's spear and water jug from right beside his head. After retreating a safe distance, David called over to Saul's camp, asking the king why he was trying to kill him (1 Samuel 26:1-20).



Realizing that the Lord arranged for David to capture his water jug and spear, Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong" (1 Samuel 26:21).

The Lord sent the prophet Elijah to a widow in Zarephath and told him she would keep him fed. When Elijah found the widow and asked her for some bread, she said she had only a bit of oil and flour. She was gathering sticks to make herself and her son each a small piece of bread. She said that after they ate it, they would die (1 Kings 17:7-12).

Elijah told her first to make him a loaf of bread and then for them to eat. He told her the Lord said, "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land" (1 Kings 17:14). The widow did what Elijah told her, and there was enough food every day for Elijah, the widow, and her family, "for the jar of flour was

Jug continued on page 2

## Blessings from God

### *From Chaplain Ken Carter...*

Karen is over her COVID. Praise God! The dialysis seems to be helping. She is starting to feel better and get a little stronger. Soon they will check her cancer levels and start back on that treatment. Thank you for your prayers.

### *From Greg Gheman...*

Sarah's operation went well. They removed the tumor and two lymph nodes. Hopefully they are clean. She has little pain but when the stuff wears off that may change. Thank you so much for the prayers!!!!

### *From Chris McKee...*

Meagan's tumor is not even measurable anymore. Its a smudge!! Woohoo!! You and the prayer partners have gotten us this far! THANKYOU. We go back for one more at least to kick the tumor cells out totally. Then if done, take an MRI every three months. And.. we did cry with the nurses and doctors. ❤️🙏

### *From Linda Moyer...*

I have much to be thankful for, mostly for having a Heavenly Father who has been so good to me and my family through this whole process. I am pleased to say that my recovery has gone well, and I am back at work. I am so thankful for all of the thoughts and prayers. I was truly blessed.

## Jug continued from page 1

not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah" (1 Kings 17:16).

The football teams put their faith in the strength, skill and strategy of their players. They won some games and lost others. Horsemen and women put their faith in their own skills and in their horses. They win some races and lose others. Saul, David, Elijah and the widow all put their faith in God and won.

The Little Brown Jugs are coveted prizes won in competition. The apostle Paul talks about the race of life. As important as horse races and football games are, the race of life is the race we cannot afford to lose. The prize is too critical.

God used King Saul's jug and David to get Saul's attention and to encourage him to focus his eyes back on God.

God rewarded the widow from Zarephath for her faith. She and her family did not die. God made sure they had enough bread to eat.

For us, Jesus is the "bread of life" (John 6:35). Jesus said, "Have faith in God. [...] Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you

### *From Kate Walker- Williams...*

1. Great Good NEWS....My 17 month post cancer screen came back TOTALLY clear all over the body. Results so good that my oncologist didn't do blood screens or any labs. With each day that passes cancer free...it becomes more of a Miracle...a divine intervention and dedicated heartfelt PRAYER has a whole lot to do with it. THANK YOU prayer warriors for sharing my burden and dividing it up with me... RIGHT BACK ATCHA...when you need me. Many thanks, Kate Williams-Walker.
2. Praise and GLORY be to God, Aunt Sue's impaction has passed & she's much more comfortable. She's not outa the woods yet but SO improved with prayer! She still has fairly high blood pressure and an irregular heart beat but hopefully with the primary health issue out of the way, the Docs will get those under control with PRAYER. Please now that she's out of imminent danger, she needs spiritual help for soul. Once again my prayer warrior friends please ask the Lord to send her a sound witness... THANK YOU for being instant in season and out of season with your praying!

### *From Sandy Weiss...*

Thank you so much for all the prayers for Chas. He needed them, and they have worked. Currently he is stable, on new meds, and I am thankful.

have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins" (Mark 11:22-25).

Friends, Jesus paid the price for our sins. All that is left for us to do to win the race of life is to turn to God, pray in faith, and forgive everyone so that God can forgive us. Instead of winning a little brown jug, we will pass through the gates of heaven to spend eternity with God. That's one race I surely want to win!



Michigan's current Little Brown Jug



Please verify or add address on back

Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back.

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for my intentions \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

Please send my newsletter (circle below)  
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_. Check Cash   

Please return to: leecalphen@comcast.net

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**To Donate Now—Click here**

**Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation**


**Gifts for Family and Friends**

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

CHHA Hat

Foiled Again Poster



**Books**

*Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

*Downloading God* by Jack Levine

*Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine

*My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine

*Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine

*Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine

*Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care* by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”

*Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* by Edmund R Gager



Rambling Willie Remembers

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

**Foiled Again Posters**  
Signed by Yannick Gingras  
Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl.



+100 Wins and + \$ 7,500,000 Lifetime

**Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:  
**Roger Huston · 2249 Grey Oaks · Grove City, OH 43123**

Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_ Gold \_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_ Fuschia \_\_\_

Keyring Qty: Red \_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_

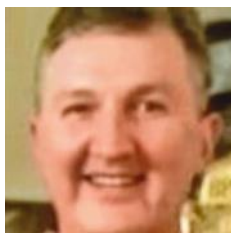
Other colors are available upon request.

**Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form**  
Orders can also be placed at  
[www.chha.net/products](http://www.chha.net/products)



## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Richard "Rich" J. Czternastek**, 62, died Aug 12. Rich was a horse trainer at Vernon Downs. For many years, he spent time at Pompano Beach training horses. He enjoyed gardening in his free time. He was a long-time member of the Utica Curling Club.



**Arthur J. Davignon Sr**, 89, of Poland, ME, died Aug 13. Beginning in 1950, Arthur raced all over Canada. In 1969 he came to the United States and raced many of the tracks between Maine and Maryland. He always said he had done exactly what he wanted to do in his life and had great success. Arthur was an exceptional blacksmith. He was very keen at identifying exactly what each horse needed, and people often came to him to diagnose the problem.



**Carl Garofalo**, 82, died Jul 20. Carl was a long time Standardbred owner and when he was in New Jersey, he loved going to The Meadowlands, Freehold, Yonkers and Roosevelt Raceway. In Florida he spent many a day at Pompano Park and Gulfstream Park. He loved sports and coached football and baseball for many years in Belleville, NJ.



**Evelyn Garofalo**, 77, died Jul 28. Her husband of 62 years, Carl, died only eight days earlier on July 20. She and Carl loved traveling, especially cruising, going to the races to watch their horses, and horses that her son and one of her other "sons," John McDermott raced. She also loved going to the casino with her husband. Her extreme love for her family will be forever missed.



**Alan C. Hainsworth**, 80, of Groveland, NY, died Aug 17. Alan began a poultry business that led to the development of the successful Hainsworth Farms. He was also incredibly passionate about his Standardbred racing business.



**Rodney F. Jungquist**, 98, died Aug 4. When he returned from serving in the US Army during WWII, Rodney worked with his father, Fredolph, racing horses. There hasn't been a day go by that he did not own a harness horse. He and his wife, Louise, started a family and that family has crossed four generations of harness

horse people. His son, David, and wife, Mary, raced mainly in Canada and the United States. His daughter Megan Parker was involved in the sport mainly in Ohio. His son, Jon, and his wife, Linda, also raced in the United States and Canada. Some of his grandkids continue to race in the United States and Canada.



**Charles Ernest Keller III**, 82, of Frederick, MD, and New Smyrna Beach, FL, died Aug 13. Charles played three years in the Yankees farm system before embarking on a career as a CPA. After retiring he became more active in the family business, known as Yankeeland Farms. The farm was a nationally recognized horse breeding operation. He served five terms as a USTA District director and served on the board of the Hambletonian Society. After moving to Florida, he and his wife, Connie, enjoyed visiting the local training centers to watch the horses and visit with friends.



**Larry J. Manges**, 70, of Wilmington, DE, died Aug 16. Larry's racing career as a driver and trainer began at Buffalo and Batavia and eventually migrated to the Delaware Valley where his dad wintered. Later he transported horses, mostly thoroughbreds, all over the East Coast and Kentucky.

**Dave Parsons** died of a massive heart attack on Aug 18. He was a groom at Vernon Downs.

**Michael Santa Maria**, 92, of Florida, died Jul 28. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War. Later he opened a 5-star nursery with his brother Dominick. His true passion was horse racing. He trained and drove at Roosevelt and Yonkers. Michael was a USTA director and New York SOA's field representative. Eventually he retired to Florida.



**Bernard Joseph White**, 86, of Pine Bush, NY, died Jul 31. After college, Bernie worked as a salesman for Proctor & Gamble before returning to Pine Bush. After earning a Master's degree in Education he taught for a while and eventually became a high school administrator. Bernie and his wife, Heidi, built Tamarack Manor and started their own Standardbred nursery. He loved breeding his own race horses and watching them train and race. He served as the President for the Goshen Historic track for 12 years.

There is nothing more important than  
**Your Eternal Salvation**

Kirk Cameron

## Obituaries

**Dena Cobb**, 79, of Deland, FL, died May 4. She and her late husband, Jack, wintered at Spring Garden Ranch. They brought their horses to the family homestead in Michigan for the summers where her sister Lou Ann lived. Dena's Dad, her sister and brother-in-law, Sandra and Dale Anderson, and many other family members raced and continue to race harness horses.



**Obituaries continued on page 4**

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

[www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) and [www.Standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.Standardbredcanada.ca)

## Prayer Corner

**Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:**

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Sarah Gehman, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Meagan McKee, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Roger Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, John Wing, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Rick Beinhauer, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Yves Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Jim Ferguson, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard,

Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Art Lisi, Jr, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Dean Miller, Peg Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Frank Profaci, Joanne Ranger, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Tom Shaw, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Gregg Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Lucille Wick, Alice Williams, Anne Winters.

**Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.**

**Please pray for those serving in the military, especially:**

John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Lucas Benitez has some health issues.

Carley is in treatment. Her dad is asking for prayers.

Robin Cino is battling another bad infection in her arm.

Karen Carter has shingles complicated by her dialysis.

Thomas Dubrick is not feeling well and may need surgery.

Paul Hansen is recovering from gall bladder surgery.

Nate is hospitalized with Leukemia.

Amy Ongstad is recovering from breast cancer surgery.

Sue has high blood pressure and an irregular heart beat.

Philip Truitt is recovering from COVID.

John Wing is scheduled for some scans to check for cancer.

Pray for the addicted, homeless, and those travelling.

Pray the smoke from fires goes away and for rain out west.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections



**Aubrey Schwartz** was awarded the John and Janet Klark Scholarship to continue her studies in Agriculture Education at Wilmington College.



According to Aubrey's essay, she was not raised in a church but, hearing her young friends talk about Sunday School and seeing all their families at church, she "wanted to know who God was and why He is great." In middle school she joined the youth group at her friends' church and began to learn about God and His word.

Weekly Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FCA, with her high school sports teams were a great source of strength for Aubrey. She is very thankful for the faithful friends she made through this group. Aubrey credits two of her FCA advisors for really helping her grow in her faith. She says, "They guided me into living a life more like Jesus."

Aubrey goes on to say, "In 2021, I began going to church with one of my family friends. I am happy to say it has been a life changing decision I've made. I couldn't be more thankful for that family for inviting me to go with them that day and every Sunday since."

Aubrey works hard to achieve her goals many of which focus on helping her community. She has initiated and spearheaded many such programs.

Lisa Schwartz says, "Aubrey is the perfect candidate for the John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship. John would have enjoyed her many adventures. She also possesses qualities personified by Janet such as: teacher, advocate, leader, scholar, faithful servant, defender, supporter, campaigner and genuine."

It is encouraging to know Aubrey wrote, "My accomplishments and experiences have humbled me and let me feel so much joy in my life. They have also taught me gratitude and thankfulness. My faith, accomplishments, and experiences have helped shape my character."

**Read about Parker Steck next month**

## Angel Among Us —Pastor Joe DiDonato

Jubilee News recently named Meadows chaplain, Pastor Joe DiDonato Angel Among Us 2021. For almost 28 years Pastor Joe has been working for the Lord serving the people at the Meadows.

The Meadows provides Pastor Joe with a nice chapel where he conducts Sunday services and big celebrations for all the holidays. The ministry hosts a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Thanksgiving dinner at Chick-Fil-A, Easter celebrations, Mothers' and Fathers' Day festivities, and a special service in June for graduates to name just a few. Of course, Pastor Joe officiates at weddings and funerals.

When the weather outside is frightful, the ministry picks up the tab in the Paddock for hot drinks and soup and sometimes for the sandwiches too. Horsemen facing hard times are blessed by Pastor Joe.

Occasionally Pastor Joe is called on to pray over a horse. Once a horse, scheduled to race in the Jug in a few days, got cut up. The veterinarian did not think he would recover in time. Pastor Joe prayed over the horse. Praise God! He did make it to the big race!



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky  
In memory of **Anne Doolin** by: Chris and Georgia Coyle  
In memory of **John Hogan** by: Chris and Georgia Coyle  
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables